

U. S. Application No. 10/623,752

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In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 so that the pending claim set reads as follows:

1. (currently amended) A collapsible shelf unit, comprising:

a three-sided frame, said frame having a back and opposed sides hingedly connected to said back at opposite edges of said back;

~~at least one shelf, each said shelf including:~~

a base panel which is hingedly connected at opposite side edges of said base panel to an adjacent side of said frame ~~and is also hingedly connected to said back of said frame,~~ said base panel having wing portions which are hingedly connected to a central portion of said base panel; and

~~at least one support panel hingedly connected to said base panel frame;~~

wherein each support panel can be folded downwardly relative to said base panel to expand and hold said sides of said frame in an erect position, and said support panel can be hinged upwardly against said back of said frame and said sides of said frame folded inwardly toward one another to collapse said central portion of said base panel toward said back of [[same]] ~~said~~ frame so as to permit folding said shelf unit into a generally flat collapsed state.

2. (original) A collapsible shelf unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said shelf further includes at least one reinforcing panel beneath at least a portion of said support panel.

3. (original) A collapsible shelf unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said shelf includes a reinforcement dowel adjacent to a front edge of said shelf.

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4. (original) A collapsible shelf unit as in Claim 1, wherein said base panel is hingedly connected to said sides of said frame by ears at side edges of said base panel which are received in slots in said sides of said frame.

5. (original) A collapsible shelf unit as in Claim 1, wherein said base panel is hingedly connected to said back of said frame by tongues which are hingedly connected to a rear edge of said base panel.

6. (original) The collapsible shelf unit of Claim 5, wherein said tongues are cut out of said support panel.

7. (original) The collapsible shelf unit of Claim 5, wherein said tongues extend through slots in said back of said frame.

8. (original) The collapsible shelf unit of Claim 7, wherein said tongues have ends which define shoulders and are reinserted into slots below said aforementioned slots in said back of said frame, said slots being of a lesser width than said shoulders so as to trap said shoulders on a front side of said back of said frame.

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9. (original) A collapsible shelf unit as in Claim 1, wherein said base panel is hingedly connected to said back of said frame by tongues which extend through slots in said back of said frame.

10. (original) The collapsible shelf unit of Claim 9, wherein said tongues are hingedly connected to a rear edge of a reinforcement panel which underlies said support panel.

11. (original) The collapsible shelf unit of Claim 10, wherein said tongues extend through slots in said shelf and through said slots in said back of said frame.

12. (original) The collapsible shelf unit of Claim 11, wherein said tongues have ends which define shoulders and are reinserted into slots below said aforementioned slots in said back of said frame, said slots being of a lesser width than said shoulders so as to trap said shoulders on said front side of said back of said frame.

13. (original) The collapsible shelf unit of Claim 9, wherein said tongues are reinserted into slots below said aforementioned slots in said back of said frame, said slots including at least three slot sections, with one of said slot sections truncating a corner between two of said slot sections.

14. (original) The collapsible shelf unit of Claim 1, further comprising a shipping container, and wherein said shelf unit is collapsed and contained in said shipping container.

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In the Specification:

Please amend paragraph 0006 as follows:

[00006] A collapsible shelf unit of the invention includes a foldable frame having a back and opposite sides hingedly connected to the back at opposite side edges of the back, and separate shelves. Each shelf has a foldable base panel with opposite ears that are engaged in slots of the side panels of the frame. A shelf support panel ~~has its rearward edge is~~ hingedly connected to the ~~rearward edge of the base panel~~ frame and may have tongues cut out of it extending from the hinge line and hingedly connected to the base panel. Alternatively, In one alternative, the tongues may extend from the rear edge (when folded) of a reinforcement panel and extend through slots at the rearward edge of the shelf support panel. The tongues may engage slots in the rear wall of the frame.